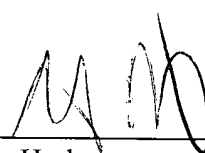


earlier presented because the references to the figures could not be corrected until the new formal drawings were prepared.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(u), applicant has also amended references to the expanded figures in the specification to correspond to the new numbering. Figure 5 now encompasses Figures 5A, 5B, and 5C. Figure 7 now encompasses Figures 7A, 7B, and 7C. Figure 8 now encompasses Figures 8A and 8B. Figure 10 now encompasses Figures 10A, 10B, and 10C. No new subject matter has been added.

Entry of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Robert A. Hodges  
Reg. No. 41,074

Date: October 26, 2000

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT



**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

  
Teresa R. Spratt

Date: October 26, 2000